

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association

February 18, 2016

Meeting Notes

Attendees: 9 Residents

Staff Present: Ross Zelenske, Neighborhood Liaison/City Planner; Battalion Chief David Cozart (HFD); three members of Ladder 3 (HFD); Sergeant Richard Helderman (HPD A-PACT), Police Officer Terrance Cansler (HPD A-PACT), and Deputy Police Chief Thurman Whisnant (HPD Administration)

Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Gwen Belk.

Gwen Belk introduced herself as the neighborhood group leader. Gwen thanked everyone for coming out and was appreciative of the regular attendance from everyone.

Sergeant Helderman from the Hickory Police Department introduced himself to everyone and reiterated for those not previously present that he was transferred to become the second Sergeant in Adam PACT. He provided the following report:

- The report for the neighborhood was good. The most significant call of the month was the shooting earlier in the week. He stated there was also calls for a fraudulent check and some civil disputes.
- Helderman then read through a report from the Code Enforcement Unit. A property on 11th St Dr NW and two properties along 12th St Dr NW have open cases and are being addressed. The Foster's Mill Apartments on Geitner Road near Creekside Apartments are undergoing renovations due to building safety issues. This is being overseen by Code Enforcement as well.
- In regard to the shooting, Sergeant Helderman stated that he could not release specific details as the case was still under investigation and that anyone in the room could be selected for jury duty in this case. He advised that the shooting resulted in the death of the victim, making the case the first homicide of the year in Hickory. The suspect would be charged with murder at a degree to be determined by the District Attorney's office. The parties involved were fairly new to the area and were renting the residence where the shooting occurred at. The shooting was in response to a domestic dispute between the two and that it occurred in the front yard of the residence. It took approximately 12 minutes between the call for help and engaging the suspect. Helderman felt that this was a superior reaction time and that the 911 callers/witnesses were cooperative with Police, which made locating the suspect easier. He stated this location was not a

known problem house and that there had only been a few incidents at the rental property based on Police records. Sergeant Helderma n wanted to reiterate that this was an isolated incident, in which the two victims knew each other and that neighbors should not feel that crime in the neighborhood is increasing.

- A citizen asked for the address of the incident. Sergeant Helderma n stated it was 1265 12th Street Drive NW. No other questions were posed by the citizens.

Captain Cates from Ladder 3 introduced himself. He then provided the following report for the Hickory Fire Department:

- A report for the past month found that the neighborhood responded to 23 calls, which included a false alarm, a small fire, and 17 EMS runs. Of those runs, only a handful were to the same address. Engine 3 was called to assist with the shooting incident earlier in the week.
- No questions were posed by the citizens.

Planner Ross Zelenske provided the following information:

- Ross passed around the February edition of the City Snippets newsletter, which included information on upcoming Easter activities.
- There are no major updates to the bond projects. Behind the scenes work is being conducted on developing RFQs and RFPs for the projects. It will be some time before they are released. Consultant FNI and the City of Hickory are negotiating a new contract to assist with the Bond Commission and overseeing the projects.
- The Friends of Hickory Park has reached a significant fundraising milestone, but is not complete yet. Ross was informed that they have raised \$600,000 of the targeted \$700,000. Utilities work for the project will be started soon.
- The Kiwanis Club splash pad has broken ground. Equipment for the park is in the process of being ordered.
- There is no significant update to report on the Lackey project. The Lackey family and City of Hickory are still working out the details, although it appears the City will be assisting with some of the costs and construction.
- Ross asked if there were any questions for him or if there was anything he could find out for the group.
 - A citizen inquired about a register of old houses and other buildings that the city was working on. She stated Ross had provided an update awhile back and was wondering what had occurred since and if Forest Hills would be involved.
 - Ross stated the she was referring to National Register of Historic Places. They maintain a national registry of historic homes

throughout the United States. The City of Hickory Historic Preservation Commission, which Ross assists with, had received a grant in 2014 to hire an architectural historian to review the city and locate properties and areas that could result in a successful nomination to the Register (among other tasks). That work was completed in late 2015. The historian found that an expansion of the existing Oakwood district, a new district for Hillcrest, and a new district for the Timberlane Terrace neighborhood seemed promising. Forest Hills and Lakeland Park were reviewed. The historian noted these houses were at the appropriate age of 50+ years, but had seen some changes (from their original construction and materials) over the years that lessened the character of the neighborhood. Ross stated he was under the impression that the Forest Hills neighborhood (and post WWII neighborhoods) would be given a more serious consideration in the next survey that would occur 10-15 years from now.

- A citizen also inquired for more information on the senior games being held in the area.
 - Ross stated he was not aware of this event. Other city staff present stated that she was likely referring to the Unifour Senior Games that were coming up and that the City of Hickory Parks & Recreation Department was likely coordinating the event.
 - *According to Parks & Recreation, the Coordinator for the Unifour Senior Games is Lauren Townson with the City of Hickory Parks and Recreation Department. She can be reached by phone at (828) 324-1200 or by email at: ltownson@hickorync.gov. The games will be held from April 15th to May 26th.*

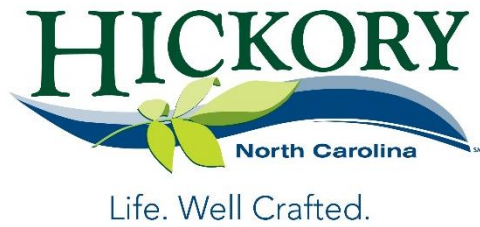
Mrs. Belk then opened the floor for open discussion. With no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting:

March 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM at Geitner-Rotary Park.

Notes recorded by Ross Zelenske.

The following items are also relevant to the February meeting:



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 22nd, 2016
Contact: Dana Kaminske
Communications Specialist
(828) 261-2289

City of Hickory to sell Mulch and Leaf Compost

HICKORY – The City of Hickory will begin its sales of mulch and leaf compost just in time for spring planting.

Mulch and Leaf Compost will be available starting Friday and Saturday, February 26th and 27th.

The City of Hickory's Yard Waste facility hours are 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, beginning Friday, February 26th. The facility is located on Cloninger Mill Road, which is off N.C. 127, near the bridge that crosses Lake Hickory and links to Alexander County. The hours will remain the same until all Mulch and Compost is gone.

The material used for the mulch and compost comes from what city crews pick up during the year, including tree branches, Christmas trees and leaves. Leaf compost is \$20 per 3yd scoop (full-size pickup truck load) and mulch will be \$20 per 3yd scoop (full-size pickup truck load). For more information, please call the Hickory Public Services Department at (828) 323-7500.

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SAVE THE DATE!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

LEARN ABOUT STATE AND LOCAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND HISTORIC TAX
CREDITS



TUESDAY MARCH 8TH
6:30PM

THE CROSSING AT HOLLAR MILL
883 HIGHLAND AVENUE SE
HICKORY, NC 28602

LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAVID LEONETTI
AT (828) 261-2227 OR DLEONETTI@HICKORYNC.GOV